

SCR

19

Alaska State Legislature

PRESIDENT
907-465-3755

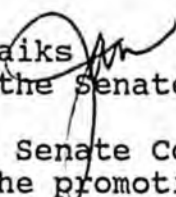
JAN FAIKS
POST OFFICE BOX V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

Senate

March 16, 1987

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Tim Kelly, Chairman
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

FROM: Senator Jan Faiks 
President of the Senate

SUBJECT: Background on Senate Concurrent Resolution 19
Relating to the promotion of the Iditarod Race

The purpose of this resolution is to promote the Iditarod Race by requesting that the Governor encourage the Division of Tourism in the Department of Commerce and Economic Development to feature the Iditarod Race in its promotion of the state, and to further encourage the division to allocate more resources to the promotion of the Race.

The Iditarod Race is a 14 year-old tradition in our state, which has now become a major international racing challenge. Established in 1973, it was declared Alaska's official sled dog race in 1976. In that same year, Congress declared the Iditarod as a National Historic Trail, which follows the old dog team mail route blazed in 1910 from Knik to Nome.

The race itself commemorates a historic event: the successful effort of Leonhard Seppala to deliver 300,00 units of life-saving diphtheria serum to epidemic-threatened Nome.

The promotion of this historic event will portray a positive image of Alaska worldwide, and expand the tourist season of our state to more than just the summer months.

The committee's prompt attention is appreciated. Thank you.

OUT OF SESSION

6060 YUKON DRIVE ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99516 907-274-6511